

Identifying Sedimentary Rocks

Name: _____ Date: _____

Table: _____ Section: _____

Background Vocabulary

Clastic (Detrital) Rocks: Rocks that have fragments of other rocks in them, derived from weathering and erosion of land masses.

Crystalline Rocks: Rocks that form from precipitation of dissolved salts in sea water.

Bioclastic rocks: Rocks that have fragments of living organisms.

Organic: Rocks that formed from organic materials over long periods of time.

Aphanitic Texture: Small crystals and fine grains.

Phaneritic Texture: Large crystals (phenocrysts) and grains creating coarse grained texture.

Phenocrysts: Larger minerals in igneous rocks.

Groundmass: smaller grains between phenocrysts in igneous rocks.

Conglomerate: Grains that are rounded in shape with groundmass as sand or finer-grained.

Breccia: Grains that are angular, pointed corners with groundmass of sand or larger particles that are rounded.

For the following table, label the following characteristics:

Grain Size: aphanitic or phaneritic

Grain Shape: Conglomerate or Breccia

Type of Sedimentary: Clastic, Crystalline, Organic, or Bioclastic.

Rock Sample	Grain Size	Grain shape	Type of Sedimentary
Limestone			
Sandstone			
Coal			
Shale			
Halite			
Sandstone Fossil			

Analyze & Conclude

1. Which was the hardest rock to identify? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Which samples are clastic? What characteristics indicate they are clastic?
3. Which samples are organic? What characteristics indicate they are organic?
4. Which samples are chemical? What are the characteristics of chemical rocks?
5. In which samples is it easier to identify the phenocrysts?
6. Which samples showed bioorganic features? How did you know?